



For Immediate Release

### **Dr. Ruby Dhalla's Motion carried through**

Ottawa- A private member's motion by Dr. Ruby Dhalla, the first-term Member of Parliament from Brampton-Springdale, calling on the Federal Government to create a Secretariat for the recognition of Foreign Credentials has been voted and carried through to the next level, by 219 votes against 54 on Tuesday June 7, 2005 at 5:30pm.

"New Canadians have made significant contributions to the country, but there are many who are unable to find jobs in their profession or their area of expertise," said Dr. Dhalla. "Surgeons, and engineers are working as cab drivers and security guards, but the individual stories mask the size of the challenge."

"There are some 100,000 new Canadians with skills in medicine, engineering, and other professions, and we are currently wasting much of this human potential. We can, and must, do better, because Canada attracts the best and the brightest from all over the world.

That means we must keep our commitment to them and ensure that we provide the resources and tools for them to use their talent and knowledge."

The 2005 Budget introduced by the Liberal Government has significant financial commitments for foreign credential recognition, accreditation and transition of immigrants into the Canadian social and economic fabric. Dr. Dhalla said more must be done to move the process forward.

"Having a coordinating secretariat at the federal level will allow for collaboration amongst all provincial governments, stakeholders, professional associations and regulatory bodies," said Dr. Dhalla. "The Secretariat will also be able to provide a coordinated approach for the many different departments and jurisdictions, and it can provide funding to organizations and other jurisdictions to help them implement innovative programs. Ultimately the Secretariat will help to ensure that all stakeholders work together and that Canadians benefit."

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